KNIGHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

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KNIGHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1954

Councillor.	A.E. Morris.	J.P.	Chairman.
"	Mrs. G.M. Walker,	J.P.	Vice-Chairman.
"	E.T. Harris,	J.P.	
"	J.G. Pryce,	J.P.	
"	Rd. Brick,	C.C.	
"	E.C.M. Nicholls.		
"	N.S.K. Pugh.		
"	J.A. Griffiths.		
"	L.B. Adams.		
"	John Morris.		
"	J.W. Morris.		
"	E.G. Powell.		
"	V.W. Pugh.		
"	H.L. Vaughan.		
"	Wm. Thomas.		
"	G. Gayther.		
"	E.W. Powell.		
"	Rd. Hughes.		
"	Rev. W.M. Williams.		
"	W.E.J. Watson.		

Clerk - J.A. Jones, F.C.C.S; A.I.A.C.
Medical Officer of Health - J.G. Garman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Sanitary Inspector/Surveyor - D.I. Davies, M.R. San I., M.S.I.A.,M.R.I.P.H.H.,

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KNIGHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Knighton Rural District Council. May 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Walker and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to submit my eleventh Annual Report upon the vital statistics, sanitary conditions and general health in the Rural District of Knighton.

In submitting my report I shall endeavour to include in addition to the required statistics and particulars of infectious diseases, an account of sanitation in the area under my control.

Being mainly an agricultural district, the provisions of the Hill Farming Acts have enabled many farmers to carry out major improvements to their dwellings, and in this connection there is close co-operation between the County Agricultural Committee and the Council in securing compliance with local byelaws. Modernisation of farm dwellings should be encouraged in order to prevent further depopulation of the Rural Area and to keep farm workers on the land.

OFFICIALS.

The Ministry of Health have requested details and qualifications of the Council's Senior Public Health Officers, which are as follows:-

Medical Officer of Health (part time) Dr. J.G. Garman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector(full time) D.I. Davies, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

All matters of Public Health are under the control of these Officers, and the whole Council deal with matters of Public Health, there being no separate Public Health Committee of the Council.

The Council's Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D.I. Davies commenced duties on the 1st April, 1954, having previously held a similar appointment with the Blandford (Dorset) Rural District Council.

STATISTICS.

Total Area (in acres) of the District	88,667.
Population	3,090.
Rateable value.	£21,228.
Sum represented by the product of a penny rate.	£85. 8. 0d.

BIRTHS.

There were 43 live births registered during the year, of which 19 were male, and 24 female, giving a birth rate of 13.9 per 1,000 of the population of the area.

The birth rate for 1953 was 14.2 per 1,000 population of the area.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of all ages registered during the year was 31, giving a death rate of 10.03 for the whole district as compared with 25 deaths in 1953, giving a rate of 8.09 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The infantile mortality rate for the year is 23.2 per 1,000 live births compared with 22.7 for 1953. Only one death under one year of age has been recorded.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There are Ante-Natal Infant Welfare and Tuberculosis Clinics in operation at Knighton and Llandrindod Wells. The Home Visiting of expectant mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic is undertaken by the Health Visitor.

Within reasonable distance Hereford, Shrewsbury, Llandrindod Wells and Newtown Hospitals are available for treatment, and Hereford and Shrewsbury have centres for the treatment of venereal diseases.

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

This scheme covers all children and adults with fortnightly clinic at Llandrindod Wells.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

Resulting from the regular inspection, provision is made for treatment. An Eye Clinic is installed in Knighton and Llandrindod Wells, a mobile Dental Service is provided at each School in the Area.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Below is a list of all infectious diseases notified during the year:-

(a) Whooping Cough. Five cases were notified, all children one boy and four girls.

(b) Dysentry. One notification of a girl, 2 year of age.

(c) Poliomyelitis. One case notified, being a female 26 years of age, and removed to Copthorn Hospital, Shrewsbury.

(d) Basal Pneumonia. One case notified of a male, 47 years of age and removed to Copthorn Hospital, Shrewsbury.

(e) Lobar Pneumonia. One case notified of a boy of 13 years of age.

(f) Septic Meningitis. One case notified, a female of 65 years of age and removed to Copthorn Hospital, Shrewsbury,

(g) Pumlonary Tuberculosis. One case notified, a male 27 years of age, and removed to Talgarth Hospital.

NOTE. No other case of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

SCHOOL CANTEENS.

All schools in the Rural District have canteens where mid-day meals are provided for the scholars.

FOOD INSPECTION.

All food premises within the district are periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water supplies throughout the district have received constant attention throughout the year, with regular samples being taken and submitted for bacteriological analysis. Arrangements have been made with the Public Health Laboratory Service for samples to be analysed at The Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury, and this system has proved itself very satisfactory. Water samples are despatched by rail from Knighton and arrive at the Laboratory within two hours of being despatched. The number of samples submitted for analysis during the year total 107.

The Teme Valley Water Supply Scheme which was installed in four sections has now been completed and is working satisfactory.

HOUSING CONSOLIDATED REGULATIONS 1925.
CIRCULAR 28/54 (Wales).

The Welsh Board of Health has requested particulars as under in connection with housing:-

1.	Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation.	1
2.	Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority of their officers.	Nil
3.	The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to,	
	(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works.	Nil
	(b) the making of demolition or closing orders.	1
4.	Number of notices served requiring the execution of works.	Nil
5.	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices.	Nil
6.	Number of demplition or closing orders made.	1
7.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under Section 11, Housing Act 1936.	Nil
8.	Number of houses demolished.	Nil

NOTE.

A closing order was made on an unfit house under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953.

HOUSING ACT 1949.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government has fixed a date for authorities to submit proposals to him for dealing with any unfit houses within their area, and in order to do this a survey of houses throughout the Rural District had been commenced in order to comply with the requirements of the Act. The date by which these proposals must be received by the Minister is 30th August 1955 and this subject should be considered by the Council at the earliest opportunity in order to decide on any future housing programme prior to submitting it to the Minister.

OVERCROWDING.

No cases of overcrowding have come to light during the year.

MILK SUPPLY.

The conditions affecting the production and handling of milk in the area has been generally satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area and no premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream.

RODENT CONTROL - Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

A systematic survey of properties has been carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator and treatment given where found necessary.

MIDWIVES ACT.

The District Nurses working in the Rural Area act as Health Visitors for the County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

No new factories have been opened within the district during the year.

OUTWORKERS.

So far as is known to your Officers there are no outworkers in the Rural Area.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my Annual Report I would express my thanks to the Members of the Council for their help and co-operation in my work as Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to remain
Your obedient Servant.

J.G. GARMAN.

Medical Officer of Health.